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of October last, I mentioned the plants seen on a short visit to one of the smaller isles, and now I will speak of one still smaller. Between Little Cranberry Island and Baker's Island, is a ledge of rocks about a mile in length, bare only at very low tides. About midway of it is a low, treeless islet, which is above the level of high tide. It is protected by a bank of shingle thrown up by the waves, while its interior is covered with verdure. The area is hardly more than an acre. It is seldom visited, but I had an opportunity on September 2d of spending a few minutes upon it, and noted the following plants:

Cakile Americana, Nutt.; *Geranium Robertianum*, L.; *Lathyrus maritimus*, L.; *Potentilla Anserina*, L.; *Rubus strigosus*, L.; *Ribes hirtellum*, Mx.; *Oenothera biennis*, L.; *Archangelica Gmelini*, L.; *Ligusticum Scoticum*, L., in great abundance; *Aster* (?) *tardiflorus*, L.; *Solidago sempervirens*, L.; *Ambrosia artemisiæfolia*, L.; *Achillea Millefolium*, L.; *Cnicus arvensis*, Hoffm.; *Mertensia maritima*, Don., in great profusion; *Convolvulus sepium*, L.; *Scutellaria galericulata*, L.; *Plantago decipiens*, Barn.; *Chenopodium album*, L.; *Suaeda linearis*, Torr., var. *ramosa*, Wats. (*S. maritima* of Gray's Manual); *Triglochin maritimum*, L.; *Iris versicolor*, L.; *Ammophila arenaria*, Host.

Erica and Calluna on Nantucket.

On a visit to Nantucket some years ago, Mrs. Catherine Starbuck, the President of the Botanical Society there, showed me a locality where I saw the *Erica cinerea* growing. The spot was situated miles from any dwelling. Mrs. Charlotte C. Pearson, an active member of the Society, informed me that she had found it when a child, in a locality far from dwellings, and where trees had never been known to grow.

In September of this year Mrs. Pearson sent me a specimen of *E. cinerea* from a new locality, and stated that the plant had been found in four different places on the island, far apart. Early in October she sent me specimens of *Erica Tetralix* and *Calluna vulgaris*, informing me that they were found in a tract planted with Larches imported from England. I wrote asking her to procure all the information possible as to the locality, when she wrote that Mr. Henry Coffin, a gentleman of

means, with a desire to afforest parts of the island, imported from England 9,000 seedling Larches, and from Illinois 30,000 Scotch Firs, and planted them upon twenty acres of land. After I wrote for information, Mr. Coffin visited the planted tract and made a thorough search; in that exploration he discovered twenty patches in which the *Erica* was growing; it was about evenly distributed over the whole tract, and was as abundant among the Firs brought from Illinois as among the Larches from England.

The seed of the *Erica* is so well protected that it will endure much exposure; this fact favors a theory that the plant has been introduced by man's agency, and that it has either been brought by settlers as an ornamental plant, and escaped from cultivation, or has been sown by seeds brought on in seed-grain, or among the roots of trees.

But in opposition to this theory, it has never been found in the vicinity of dwellings, nor near cultivated grounds.

O. R. WILLIS.

Unusual Leaf-Forms in *Platanus occidentalis*.

I send some leaf specimens taken from a Plane tree near Houston. Compared with the usual form of the leaf, most of the leaves on this particular tree are but slightly toothed, while a large proportion are only pointed at the three lobes—the rest of the margin entire. Has this peculiar sport of the Plane been noticed before? It is another instance of the diversity in the form and outline of leaves belonging to a single species.

As this Plane (*P. occidentalis*) is easily propagated by cuttings (more readily than its oriental kin) there is reason to believe that a fixed variety can be secured.

G. C. NEALLEY.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Agaricus campestris. Worthington G. Smith. (Gard. Chron., xxvi., pp. 492, 493; two figures.)

A popular account of the field mushroom, with excellent illustrations of its structure and appearance.

Beginnings of Natural History in America. G. Brown Goode. (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, iii., pp. 35-105; reprinted.)

This paper is the presidential address delivered at the sixth